

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

January 15, 2009

Dear Chairman Hanson and Board members:

Representing the County's BRAC Implementation Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Revised 2008 Master Plan Update for the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our views and seek your support for a comprehensive vision for the area surrounding the National Naval Medical Center.

Regarding the Master Plan, we have enclosed our letter addressed to County Executive Leggett, detailing our thoughts. In summary, the Committee is pleased that many of its earlier comments on the draft version have been incorporated in the final version, in particular, a strengthening of the Transportation Management Plan. We continue to urge the Navy to:

- Take responsibility for constructing an east-side metro entrance, campus entrances and provide kiss-and-ride drop-offs on both Rte 355 and Jones Bridge Road.
- Provide frequent shuttle-bus service for NNMC personnel and visitors from outlying Park & Ride lots, perhaps working with NIH
- Make a commitment for long-term community liaison, to aid the community in monitoring the TMP and on-campus housing needs.

Beyond the Master Plan comments, the Committee wanted to take this opportunity to urge you to keep focused on the bigger picture of livability (sustainability) for the neighborhoods surrounding the National Naval Medical Center.

The Committee continues to identify mobility as the key component for maintaining livability in the area. Sustaining mobility in this area will require major efforts to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles through a variety of creative solutions. It will also require the planning, implementing, and maintenance of comprehensive transportation infrastructure, including coordinated intersection improvements that balance vehicular and pedestrian

requirements. This vision of sustaining mobility is articulated in the seven goals and objectives of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, which are outlined in the attached BIC letter to County Executive Leggett.

Also attached is a matrix of mobility improvements that have been supported by the Committee and, we believe, by the Planning Board. We would urge the Board to review the matrix and formally support the mobility projects identified or a modified version. Going forward, we would hope the Planning Board would encourage all government officials and staff at all levels, to keep this vision of mobility, and the specific projects needed to implement the vision in mind during future policy discussions, and particularly during budget preparations.

In conclusion, we have also enclosed, as a reminder, the seven Goals and Objectives from the B-CC Master Plan. Hopefully, we can all keep these front and center as future policy and budgetary decisions are made at all levels of government.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

John H. Carman, Chair
Montgomery County BRAC
Implementation Committee

ATTACHMENTS